

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
**FILED**  
AUG 28 2018  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

No. 4:17-CV-319-A

Before the court is a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 filed by petitioner Harold David Sharp Jr., a state prisoner, against Lorie Davis, director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, respondent. After having considered the pleadings and relief sought by petitioner, the court has concluded that the petition should be dismissed as time-barred.

On June 22, 2011, in the 220th District Court, Comanche County, Texas, Case Nos. CCCR-10-03315, CCCR-10-03316, and CCCR-10-03317, a jury found petitioner guilty of three counts of intoxication assault, enhanced, and assessed his punishment at twenty years' confinement, a \$5000 fine, and court costs in each case. (Clerk's R. for CCCR-10-03315 at 52; Clerk's R. for CCCR-

10-03316 at 59; Clerk's R. for CCCR-10-03317 at 61.) Petitioner's convictions were affirmed on appeal and, on September 11, 2013, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused his petitions for discretionary review. (Mem. Op. at 10; Docket Sheets at 2) Petitioner did not seek writ of certiorari. (Pet. at 3.) Petitioner also sought postconviction state habeas-corpus relief by filing three state habeas applications, one for each case, on October 2, 2015, which were denied by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on May 25, 2016, without written order.<sup>1</sup> (SHR01<sup>2</sup> at 4 & Action Taken; SHR02 at 4 & Action Taken; SHR03 at 4 & Action Taken.) This federal petition challenging his convictions and sentences was filed on April 10, 2017.<sup>3</sup> (Pet. at 13.)

## II. Issues

In eight grounds for relief, Petitioner claims that (1) his trial counsel was ineffective (grounds one and eight); his sentences are based on perjured testimony (ground two); the state engaged in prosecutorial misconduct (ground three); the trial

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<sup>1</sup>Under the so-called "prison mailbox rule," a prisoner's state habeas application is deemed filed when placed in the prison mailing system. *Richards v. Thaler*, 710 F.3d 573, 578-79 (5th Cir. 2013). However, it appears that petitioner's state habeas applications were filed directly with the Comanche County district clerk by his habeas attorney. Thus, the prison mailbox rule is not applied to his state habeas applications.

<sup>2</sup>"SHR01" refers to the record of petitioner's state habeas proceeding in WR-84,130-01; "SHR02" refers to the record of his state habeas proceeding in WR-84,130-02; and "SHR03" refers to the record of his state habeas proceeding in WR-84,130-03.

<sup>3</sup>Similarly, a federal habeas petition filed by a prisoner is deemed filed when the petition is placed in the prison mailing system. *Spotville v. Cain*, 149 F.3d 374, 377 (5th Cir. 1998).

court abused its discretion (ground four); the evidence was insufficient to prove the accident was caused by intoxication (ground five); his right to confrontation was violated (ground six); and his sentencing was improper (ground seven). (Pet. 6-7 & Attachs.) Respondent asserts that the petition is untimely under the federal statute of limitations. (Resp't's Answer 11-15.)

### **III. Statute of Limitations**

Title 28, United States Code, § 2244(d) imposes a one-year statute of limitations on federal petitions for writs of habeas corpus filed by state prisoners. Section 2244(d) provides:

(1) A 1-year period of limitations shall apply to an application for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court. The limitations period shall run from the latest of-

(A) the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of direct review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review;

(B) the date on which the impediment to filing an application created by State action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the applicant was prevented from filing by such State action;

(C) the date on which the constitutional right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or

(D) the date on which the factual predicate of the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

(2) The time during which a properly filed

application for State post-conviction or other collateral review with respect to the pertinent judgment or claim is pending shall not be counted toward any period of limitations under this subsection.

28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) (1)-(2).

With limited exceptions not applicable here, under subsection (A), the limitations period began to run on the date on which the judgments of conviction became final by the expiration of the time for seeking direct review.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, petitioner's convictions became final upon expiration of the time that he had for filing a petition(s) for writ of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court on December 10, 2013. See *Jimenez v. Quarterman*, 565 U.S. 134, 119-20 (2009); SUP. CT. R. 13. Therefore, his federal petition was due one year later on December 10, 2014, absent any tolling.

Tolling of the limitations period may be appropriate under the statutory provision in § 2244(d) (2) and/or as a matter of equity. However, petitioner's state habeas applications filed on

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<sup>4</sup>Apparently for purposes of invoking subsection (D), petitioner asserts in his petition, without further elaboration, that he "was just made aware through 11.07 application of the violations," and his petition "comply's [sic] with USC § 2254(b)." However, petitioner's claims involve matters related to his jury trial and, with due diligence, he could have discovered the factual predicate of those claims at the time of his convictions. See *Manning v. Epps*, 688 F.3d 177, 190 (5th Cir. 2012); *Flanagan v. Johnson*, 154 F.3d 196, 199 (5th Cir. 1998). The relevant inquiry under subsection (D) focuses on when the factual predicate of a claim could have been discovered, as opposed to the date on which the petitioner has in his possession evidence to support his claim. See *Johnson v. McBride*, 381 F.3d 587, 589 (7th Cir. 2004); *Davis v. Davis*, No. 4:17-CV-228-A, 2018 WL 3489581, at \*4 (N.D.Tex. July 19, 2018). Because petitioner fails to provide any proof of a new factual predicate, undiscoverable with due diligence at the time of his convictions, subsection (D) does not provide the date on which the statute of limitations begins.

October 2, 2015, after limitations had already expired, did not operate to toll limitations. See *Moore v. Cain*, 298 F.3d 361, 366-67 (5th Cir. 2002); *Scott v. Johnson*, 227 F.3d 260, 263 (5th Cir. 2000). Nor does petitioner assert a right to equitable tolling, believing his petition to be timely. Nevertheless, for equitable tolling to apply, a petitioner must show “(1) that he has been pursuing his rights diligently and (2) that some extraordinary circumstance stood in his way” and prevented him from filing a timely petition or he can make a “convincing showing” that he is actually innocent of the crime for which he was convicted. *McQuiggin v. Perkins*, 569 U.S. 383, 386 (2013); *Holland v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 631, 649 (2010) (quoting *Pace v. DiGuglielmo*, 544 U.S. 408 (2005)). Petitioner makes no assertion of actual innocence or present extraordinary circumstances that prevented him from filing a timely federal petition. Thus, he fails to demonstrate that equitable tolling is justified.

Accordingly, petitioner’s federal petition was due on or before December 10, 2014. His petition, filed on April 10, 2017, is therefore untimely.

For the reasons discussed, it is further ORDERED that petitioner’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 be, and is hereby, DISMISSED as time-barred. Petitioner has not made a showing that reasonable jurists would question this court’s procedural ruling. Therefore, it is further

ORDERED that a certificate of appealability be, and is hereby,  
denied.

SIGNED August 28, 2018.



JOHN MCBRYDE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE